

Growth from Within: The Democratic Plan for Promoting Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Maine Small Business Bill of Rights



Preamble:

Maine has the human, natural and technical resources to assure that every person who wants to work can achieve meaningful employment, and every company will have access to the tools it needs to thrive.

Small businesses are the backbone of Maine's economy, and are central to our way of life. More than 97 percent of all Maine businesses are small businesses, and they employ 61 percent of all Maine workers. Nearly three-quarters of net new jobs in Maine are created by small business.

Accordingly, future growth in Maine's workforce will come primarily from new homegrown businesses and from existing small businesses that hire new workers.

Therefore, we believe:

Maine citizens have the right to a business culture that encourages and supports small business, including a favorable tax climate, competitive rates for worker's compensation insurance, and affordable health insurance for employees.

Small businesses have the right to expect state agencies to work together to help them: providing the education, training and support needed to start and run businesses; guaranteeing ready access to the information needed to assist businesses in their relationships with state government; and ensuring a clear, stable and predictable regulatory and record-keeping environment.

Maine small businesses have the right to be treated like large businesses, with reasonable access to the same incentives and services.

Developed by the Democratic Working Group on Small Business Growth
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For more information, contact House Majority Leader John Richardson at RepJohn.Richardson@legislature.maine.gov, or 287-1430, or visit the House Majority Office website at www.maineousedems.org/business to get more information about upcoming forums and to sign up for an electronic newsletter regarding small business issues.